



# Pelham Press

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<http://pe.arps.org>



**Dates to Remember:**

Monday, December 5

PTO meeting- 6 p.m.

Friday, December 8

Pelham Spirit Wear orders due

December 26-January 2

Holiday Recess



Dear Pelham School Families,

Reporter Molly Goodman from ARHS is one of the student reporters that has been visiting Amherst and Pelham Schools to interview staff members about what is happening in the schools. This is a great opportunity for Pelham School to showcase some of the wonderful programs and projects that are taking place within the classrooms. Please see the article included within this Press to see Molly's interview with Suzanne Quinlan, fifth grade teacher. Suzanne and several other classroom teachers are using the Responsive Classroom program. The Responsive Classroom approach is a widely used, research-backed approach to elementary education that increases academic achievement, decreases problem behaviors, improves social skills, and leads to more high-quality instruction.

A big thank you to Judy Rudolph, Pelham School parent. Judy came in to replant the sad-looking plants outside the gym and freshen the whole area up. It looks much brighter and I am sure the plants are loving it! Judy has volunteered to come on a regular basis to help maintain this spot of nature within our school.

A reminder for families to complete the survey sent out from the Superintendent's Office regarding the plan to make up the week of school lost after the snow storm. Please visit the Pelham School website for more detailed information about the options at <http://pe.arps.org> The following link brings you directly to the survey to provide your feedback through a short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DWCF39H> If you do not have access to a computer, please contact the school and we will find a way for you to participate. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your thoughts.

**Wreaths and pointsettias can be picked up today and Monday until 5:00 in the gym.** Please exit out the gym doors with your greens. That would be appreciated!

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Desjarlais*

## Third Grade News

### Meg Gallagher

Students came back quietly Monday morning; I think the tryptophan was still working!

In reading, we have studied about traditional folktales. Students have read many tales and searched for examples of simple and direct plots, repetition of threes, language that has a spoken quality, or seems to come from a particular country, culture, or time. They have also identified the themes or lessons of the folktales. This week we are reading three fractured versions of The Three Little Pigs. We are finding them quite humorous. Students are comparing and contrasting each story in a chart they are keeping.

We have been engrossed in a writing project inspired by the work we did at the Amherst Cinema. Our pieces are about how to bring a wave home from the ocean. The students started out with somewhat clinical answers to the problem. They then crafted their thoughts into stories. After our trip to the theatre, students revised their pieces with added sensory details and actions. I am very proud of the work they have done.

We have begun a new unit in math called Perimeter, Angles, and Area. We reviewed the length of units of measure such as inch, foot, yard, centimeter, and meter. We are working on understanding perimeter as the measure around the outside edges of a 2-dimensional figure and area as measurement in square units. Our investigations will explore geometric moves and identifying attributes of triangles, angles, and quadrilaterals. We will continue our work on place value of numbers up to 1,000.

Our Mexico unit is progressing nicely. We studied the geography and climate of Mexico, and student groups are giving PowerPoint presentations to their classmates this week. This project takes a lot of cooperation, and we are working on these skills. Next week we will learn about the history of Mexico through its sculptures, paintings, buildings, and crafts.

## Fourth Grade Pelham Press

In mathematics we have concluded our investigation into problem-solving. We will continue to look at these throughout the year, but I have been satisfied that the children can compose word problems and use a variety of strategies to solve them, including the use of diagrams, pictures, tables, and equations. It is remarkable that students have so many strategies to solve word problems. The essential idea is that students can picture the situation in their heads and map out a successful solution. Make sure that you look at all the corrected work that is coming home to give you a better idea of the great work they are doing.

Students are reading a variety of books on Pilgrims in the New World. Some might be surprised to know that there were different groups of people on the Mayflower. The Strangers, as they were called, were not so much motivated by the promise of religious freedom, but rather the opportunity for a better life than they had in England. The Saints of the Holy Discipline had been persecuted relentlessly by King James and had to hold their services in secret. No doubt they were also looking for a new chance, spiritually and economically. And there was the crew who delivered the passengers safely and returned to England with the Mayflower.

We continue to stress the importance of understanding and completing homework. Some activities you can do with your child include checking their work each night and making sure they have everything ready to turn in at the end of the week. Each student is asked to read at least 25 minutes each night. One way to be involved is to keep track of your child's evening reading. You may want to read with him or her on a regular basis to guide them in understanding what they have read. Finally, quiz your child on their vocabulary and spelling words on Thursday, so they will be warmed up for Friday morning.

## **Responsive Classroom Techniques Give Every Child a Voice at Pelham Elementary** **by Molly Goodman**

Suzanne Quinlan, 5th grade teacher at Pelham Elementary School, has adopted an approach to teaching known as “Responsive Classroom”. The program is based on the premise that young students learn best when they have developed social-emotional skills.

“It’s a way to build community in the classroom,” said Quinlan. “It’s really structured our morning meeting which includes a greeting, share [time], an activity and a message telling them what’s happening during the day.”

The morning meeting is especially fun for students as it starts their day with movement and interaction.

“Sometimes we do a “ball-toss” greeting, or a “shake-hands” greeting - we have all these different kinds just so every kid is heard within the first five minutes of the day,” Quinlan said. “What I really like is that the powerful kids aren’t dominating, and the more reserved kids are stepping up. It gives a voice to all children.”

“Sharing time is both interesting and educational for the children,” Quinlan explained.

“It teaches the kids how to tell a story; how to form a topic sentence, main idea, details, and then a conclusion.”

The fun, active game that follows always gets hearts pumping and laughter flowing. Most recently, the students took on square dancing.

“I was nervous that they wouldn’t want to do silly stuff like this,” Quinlan said. “But they love it.”

In addition, Quinlan is focusing on the ‘reactive language’ component of the program which discourages teachers from repeating themselves after initially explaining a specific task. This is important as it builds independence among young students.

“I have an expectation list - once you’ve been trained to do this, you do this. Although I am focusing on the meeting this year, I do hope to focus more on the language aspect next year.”

## INTRODUCING PELHAM SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR!

Dear parents,

On Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, your child will receive a “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully” t-shirt, courtesy of the Pelham PTO. This is your child’s Pelham spirit wear shirt, and they are welcome to keep it and wear it to school assemblies, events, and around town!

Beginning this week, we will also be selling additional t-shirts and sweatshirts for adults and children, with the same “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully” logo. This is a Pelham PTO fundraiser, and a portion of the cost of the shirts will support the Pelham PTO. These items will make great holiday gifts for Pelham students, siblings, parents, grandparents, and other family members!!

The order form is below. Please submit your order to your child’s teacher **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>**. Examples of t-shirt and sweatshirt colors are located in the Pelham lunchroom (hanging on a bulletin board)

### PELHAM SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR ORDER FORM

ITEM	NUMBER	COLOR		SIZE						
		LIME GREEN	CAROLINA (LIGHT) BLUE	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL
CHILD T-SHIRT (\$15.00)										
ADULT T-SHIRT (\$17.00)										
CHILD SWEATSHIRT (\$23.00)										
ADULT SWEATSHIRT (\$28.00)										
TOTAL COST										

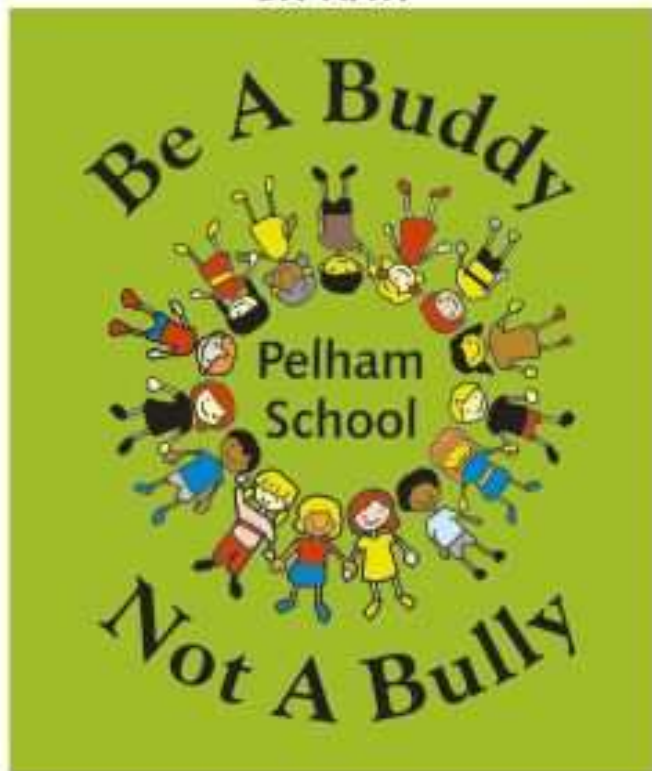
**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO PELHAM PTO. ORDERS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE SCHOOL PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY BREAK (DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>).**

**PARENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

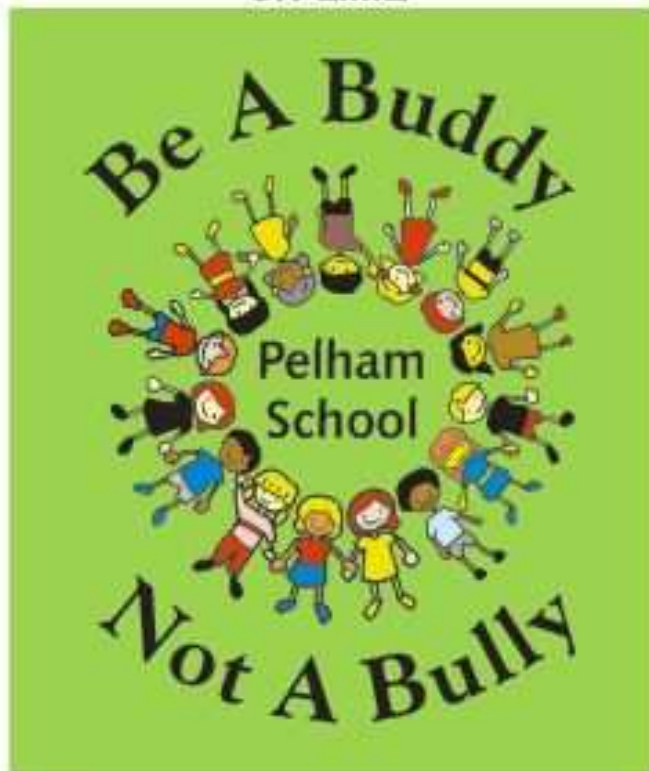
**CHILD/REN NAMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER IN CASE WE HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ORDER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS FOR US TO NOTIFY YOU THAT ORDER HAS ARRIVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FULL FRONT 9.5"WIDE x 12.5"TALL 5C(To be priced for 4C per Steve)  
SUPER RED, YELLOW, PROCESS BLUE, TAN & BLACK  
ON KIWI**



**ON LIME**



**LT.BLUE**

